

L. Long



WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1958

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee

1958

- Chairman - The Revd. J.C. Pallister
- Vice-Chairman - Mrs. J.M. Gosselin
- Members - Mr. C.B. Andrews, M.B.E.
Mr. H.A. Bond
Mr. D. Hoy
Colonel P.H. Labouchere, O.B.E., J.P. (ex officio)
Mrs. L.V. Neale, J.P.
Capt. M.E.B. Sparke, J.P. (ex officio)
Miss V.H. Sprott
Mrs. M.C. Sterland
Mr. G. de Strange
Mrs. D.B. Thistleton-Smith
Mr. E.A.E. Turner
Mrs. E.G. Whithead

- PREFACE -

The Chairman & Members,
Walsingham R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Public Health Report for 1958.

The Report includes contributions from Mr. Eagle, the Surveyor and from Mr. Riches the Housing Manager. I am indebted to both of these Officers for their assistance and cooperation.

On the whole the public health of the District may be said to have been remarkably good. The annual fluctuations in the vital statistics are of minor degree and conform generally with the prevailing trends.

The record low figure of 93 notifications of communicable diseases is a matter of satisfaction but again, in itself, it is not significant statistically. It is perhaps more gratifying to note the continued absence of diphtheria and the very low incidence of whooping cough, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis which could, in great measure, be attributed to the preventive inoculation programmes which are increasing rapidly in popularity and which indeed take up a great deal of my time as Assistant County Medical Officer. It is however still disquieting to note that as much as 6.1% of meat slaughtered was found infected with tuberculosis (vide page 25).

The incidence of dental decay among school children, combined with the present day habits of almost perpetual mastication of sweets, is a matter of continued anxiety. The conclusions of the Expert Committee of the World Health Organisation on the benefits of fluoridation of water supply in areas where it is lacking in natural content, have been summarised (on page 10). One would think that with such conclusive and unequivocal evidence no further delay would be countenanced in the application of this useful measure. But, apparently we must wait for the results of further researches.

Housing remains the biggest public health problem. Although progress in meeting the demand is steady, it is still too slow when one considers that there are still 196 urgent cases of families needing accommodation and 348 in the slightly less urgent category (vide pages 11 to 13). These figures do not take into account 40 families still living in 'prefabs' and 61 in hutments. It would appear that a bolder policy providing more generous facilities than have hitherto been afforded is required if the problem is to be solved within a foreseeable future.

A notable advance has been made in the construction of the 34 one-roomed dwellings for old people. This not only solves the problem of accommodation and care for that number of aged persons but releases that number of houses for applicants who urgently need them. But again it only goes a short way to the solving of the problem as a whole.

Other great advances in the field of environmental hygiene have been (a) the completion during the year of the new Fakenham & Hempton sewage works (vide page 23) which has removed a constantly recurring public health risk; and (b) the extension of the water supplies to the South Eastern Parishes where safe water has been so badly needed. Further extensions of these services are contemplated and still urgently needed in some Parishes.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude to the Council for their continued interest and support and also to the Clerical Staff of my Office in Wells who devote much time and labour in assisting me to produce this Report.

Your obedient Servant

W.H. CRICHTON

C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

PART I- General -(1) Staff of the Public Health Department -

There have been no changes in the Staff. I am particularly grateful for the excellent work and loyal assistance given to me by Mr. Eagle, Engineer, Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector whose admirable report is attached as Part II of this report, and by the Additional Health Inspectors, Mr. Doughty and Mr. Page.

(2) Area and Population of the District -

(a) There has been no change in the area of the District (39 parishes; 88,818 acres).

(b) The population of the District has been estimated by the Registrar General at 24,680, an increase of 830 over the estimated figure for 1957. The natural increase in the population, as shown by the difference of births over deaths, was 154. The estimated population figure therefore suggests an influx of people into the District whereas last years figures suggested a loss through migration.

(3) The Rateable value of the District is £193,924

(4) The Product of the ld. Rate 1957 - 53 was £785

(5) Meteorological Factors -

By courtesy of the R.A.F. Meteorological Office at West Raynham who have furnished the data (vide Appendix A), some indication can be given of the circumstances affecting the area generally. There was no very notable departure from the conditions obtaining in the preceding year excepting for the colder January & February which culminated in a severe blizzard, the disruptive effects of which on the public services might have been serious had they been more prolonged. The total rainfall was some 3" higher than in the preceding year.

- Vital Statistics -

(1) Live Births - The Registrar General's figures for births and still births occurring in the District during 1958 are as follows:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	193 (204)	165 (187)	358 (391)
Illegitimate	4 (10)	6 (7)	10 (17)
	197 (214)	171 (194)	368 (408)
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	4 (2)	2 (6)	6 (8)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total (Live and Still Births)			= 374 (416)

X Figures in brackets relate to 1957.

(2) The Live Birth Rate - The crude rate is 14.8 per 1,000 as compared with 17.4 in 1957. The corrected live birth rate is 18.84 per 1,000 as against 22.2 in the preceding year. The rate for England and Wales is 16.4.

(3) The Still Birth Rate - 16.0 per 1,000 live and still births. The figure for 1957 was 19.2 . The rate for England and Wales is 21.6.

(4) Infant Mortality -

(a) Infant deaths - The number of deaths in children under one year of age was 10 as compared with 12 in 1957 and 8 in 1956. All ten deaths occurred among legitimate children.

(b) The Infant Mortality Rates are as follows:-

- (i) Total - 27.1 per 1,000 live births. X
- (ii) Legitimate - 27.3 per 1,000 live births.
- (iii) Illegitimate - Nil.

The legitimate infant mortality rate in 1957 was 29.4 per 1,000 live births.

(c) The Neonatal Mortality rate - Seven children (4 male; 3 female) died under four weeks of age as compared with six in the preceding year. The neonatal mortality rate is therefore 19.0 per 1,000 live births as compared with 14.7 in 1957. Neonatal deaths are ascribed to factors concerned with their birth and to congenital abnormalities rather than to environmental factors.

(5) The Illegitimate births (10) represented 2.7% of the total number of live births. The figure for the preceding year was 1.9.

(6) Maternal Mortality - No deaths connected with pregnancy, abortion or confinement were recorded.

(7) Deaths -

(a) The number of deaths as reported by the Registrar General is 214 (120 male: 94 female). This exceeds that of the preceding year by 24.

(b) The crude death rate was 8.7 per 1,000 population as compared with 7.5 in 1957 while the corrected death rate was 9.65 as against 8.32 per 1,000 in the preceding year. b

(c) The causes of death - Reference is invited to Appendix B (page 15). It will be noted that the four main causes of death are:- heart disease (72 including coronary disease (23), hypertension with heart disease (3) and "other heart diseases" (46); cancer (42 deaths or 19.6% of the total) and vascular lesions of nervous system (29 deaths or 13.5% of the total deaths). To those who still entertain doubts on the association of cancer of the lung with smoking, the deaths of five males from this condition, and no females will no doubt afford food for thought.

The high percentage of deaths from coronary disease of the heart (10.7%) is a constant reflection on our feeding habits (i.e. an excess of fatty foods) as the condition is scarcely ever heard of in countries which do not indulge in these luxuries.

X The rate for England and Wales is 22.6.

b The rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) The number of diseases 'notified' in the District during the year was 93. These were as follows:-

Measles	60	(425)
Whooping Cough	2	(43)
Scarlet Fever	1	(14)
Tuberculosis - Pulm.	2	(5)
" -- Non-Pulm.	1	(2)
Pneumonia	8	(19)
Acute poliomyelitis	1	(2)
Food poisoning	15	(4)
Dysentery	2	(-)
Erysipelas	1	(-)
	<u>93</u>	<u>(516)</u>

(2) These figures are gratifying, not only in comparison with those for the preceding year (in brackets) which was a measles epidemic year, but also in that they are the lowest recorded for the last five years. Thus:-

<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
267	300	145	516	93

(3) We must count our blessings. Prevention by specific vaccination, by improved environmental hygiene and by education has made the old "killing" diseases vanish or reduced them to comparative harmlessness. This applies particularly to smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

(4) There is however no cause for complacency. The relatively high incidence of "bowel" diseases (food poisoning and dysentery) shows that there is still need for further education and for improved methods in the handling and storing of foods.

(5) It should also be remembered that the figures above relate only to diseases which are "notifiable" by Statute and takes no account of the untold misery and mental anxiety caused by the very considerable incidence of coughs and colds, attacks of influenza, chicken-pox and mumps, tonsils and adenoids, asthma and bronchitis which still play havoc with the health of the community, especially among the younger generation.

(6) At the recent Annual Health Congress at Harrogate, Lord Cohen, Chairman of the Central Health Services Council, deplored the inadequacy of funds devoted to research in the cause and prevention of the three main killing diseases, and of mental health. This is undoubtedly true, but I would submit that there is an equally strong case for research in the prevention of these so-called "minor" ailments which do not necessarily kill but which check or mar a child's progress, interrupt school work, disorganise health programmes and generally drive parents "up the wall". In particular I would nominate as Public Enemy No. 1., the Common Cold, closely followed by Measles with its sequelae however "minor" these may be considered.

(7) Measles - Of the 60 cases notified, 51 occurred in January, 49 of these being among the U.S. Community at Sculthorpe Base. There were also two cases in February, one each in April and July, and five cases in August, four of whom were children in one family. All the cases occurred among children of school age.

(8) Pneumonia - Although the number of cases notified (8) is lower than that of last year the number of deaths recorded from pneumonia by the Registrar General is 12 as compared with 10 in the preceding year (vide Appendix B). The age groups affected varied between eleven months (1) to three years (1), five years (1) the "Twenties" (2), the "Sixties" (2) and an octogenarian. Two were notified as "virus" pneumonias.

(9) Whooping Cough - Only two cases were notified in children, both three years of age, as compared with 43 cases in the preceding year. Both cases occurred in January and both had in fact been "immunised" and were very mild cases. The protective value of whooping cough vaccine has been confirmed in a recent report of the Medical Research Council and full advantage is being taken by the public of the "Combined" vaccines which are now available at all Infant Welfare Clinics and Family Doctors' Surgeries. The "Triple" vaccine protects against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in three doses and is therefore the most popular. Combined vaccination is suspended for six months in the year during the polio 'Season' (April to September) as a precaution against the risk of provoking an attack in a person who has been infected with polio'. The number of immunisations carried out in the Area is as follows:-

Vaccine Used	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total.
Dip/Pertussis/Tetanus	146	70	-	216
Dip/Pertussis "Combined"	78	30	-	108
Total	224	100	-	324

(10) Scarlet Fever - One mild case was notified (male 18) from the Army Medical Reception Centre at Langham.

(11) Tuberculosis - New cases again show a welcome decrease, compared with the figures last year and it will be noted (vide Appendix B) that there were no deaths at all. Of the three cases notified, two were pulmonary (male 27, R.A.F; female 43 from Fakenham) and one was non-pulmonary - an infection of the cervical glands in a man of 77 from Fakenham.

At the end of the year the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register, including transfers and removals was as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Males	Females	Males	Females
30 (35)	25 (28)	3 (3)	3 (3)
55 (63)		6 (6)	

∞ The figures in brackets relate to the previous year.

The B.C.G. vaccination programme for all school children in their 14th year was well received and is increasing in popularity. The number of tuberculin tests and vaccinations carried out in schools in the District in 1958 was as follows:-

	<u>No. tested</u>	<u>No. vaccinated</u>	
Fakenham Grammar	178	121	
Fakenham Sec. Mod.	92	77	
Wells Sec. Mod.	114	81	
Melton Constable Sec. Mod.	56	49	
	<u>440</u>	<u>328</u>	x

x (The remainder were "positive" to the test and therefore not considered likely to benefit B.C.G. vaccination. Positive "reactors" were X-rayed and found normal).

The Norwich Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to the Area in May 1958 (5th & 6th), when 893 persons (592 males; 301 females) were examined. These people were drawn from Wells & Fakenham and from adjoining Parishes. Three active cases of tuberculosis were found to require clinical attention.

(12) Acute Poliomyelitis - One case of acute poliomyelitis - a child of twelve years of age, occurred at Barney. The attack was paralytic and she has fortunately made a satisfactory recovery. Her illness did much to stimulate interest in polio' vaccination in the area, particularly so as she happened to be the only one of three sisters who had refused to be vaccinated. She had not been in contact with any known or suspected case, and no secondary cases occurred in her home environment or at school which she attended throughout the incubation period. It is interesting to note that the case of acute poliomyelitis which occurred in the District in 1956 (female 5 yrs. Melton Constable, the fatal case in 1957 (young married woman, Thursford) and the case this year all happened in the same geographical sector of her District, although they were obviously unconnected. The first occurred in November, the second in August and the last in October.

Good progress was made with the polio' vaccination programme despite complications of climate, intercurrent infectious diseases, initial distrust of the Salk vaccine and the lack of British vaccine. Nevertheless 4509 vaccinations were carried out in the Walsingham District by the end of the year, including 757 who completed their third injection. The figures for the whole Area were 7257 protected with two injections and 1310 with three injections.

(13) Food Poisoning - 15 cases were notified, although there is reason to believe that many more cases occurred which were not notified. Several more were infected in the District but resided outside it. Of the cases notified ten occurred in May, including a family of three in Fakenham and seven in Military Camps - all infected with S. enteritidis. The source of infection in the latter group was traced to sandwiches.

Of the remaining cases, one (male 3 yrs) was reported from Fakenham in June, the causal organism being S. typhimurium; two further cases infected with the same organism were reported from R.A.F. Camps in July (Male 21; female 37); and one case in a male of 75 from Fakenham was attributed to S. anatum. The last case notified in September in a male of 51 was ascribed to S. typhimurium.

Two further cases of food poisoning by Sonne' dysentery bacilli were reported from Military Camps in May.

The most serious outbreak, as far as clinical severity and number affected was concerned, was that which occurred in July and of which only one case was notified in the District. Although no actual evidence was available when the investigations were instituted, there was good reason to believe that the source of infection was brawn.

(14) Other infectious Diseases -

Among the non-notifiable diseases which occurred during the year, the most important was mumps, the occurrence of which was reported by the School authorities mainly in the south eastern corner of the District (Gt. Ryburgh, Briston, Hindolveston, Fulmodestone, East Barsham, the Snoring's). It also occurred in Langham & Holkham. A number of cases of chicken-pox were also reported, especially from Hindolveston, Gunthorpe and Stibbard.

A few cases of "winter diarrhoea" were reported in January from Holkham (5 cases) and Gunthorpe (18). Investigations which were carried out as to any possible common source proved negative. The attacks in all cases were characterised by abdominal pain and vomiting and all were transient.

Diphtheria - It is gratifying that this once dreaded disease can now be relegated to the heading of "other" infectious diseases. For the sixth year in succession there has been no case. 345 children were protected by vaccination during the year, mainly in combination with other antigens. Thus:-

Age Groups	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	Total
Dip/Pertussis/ Tetanus.	146	70	-	216
Dip/Pertussis.	78	30	-	108
Dip/Tetanus	3	-	-	3
Diphtheria	12	5	1	18
Totals	239	105	1	345

It will be noted however that, comparatively few "booster" doses have been given. It is hoped that as soon as the bulk of the school population have been protected against polio, it will be possible to resume the diphtheria booster programme.

Smallpox - Vaccinations against smallpox are being sought in increasing numbers as can be seen by the following table of vaccinations carried out in the Area:-

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 +	Total
Primary	396 (367)	14 (19)	12 (28)	15 (18)	34 (32)	471 (464)
Re-vaccinations	- -	- -	5 (2)	24 (14)	84 (83)	113 (99)
Totals	396 (367)	14 (19)	17 (30)	39 (32)	118 (115)	584 (563)

Now that the duration of the journey from endemic sources in the East has been so very considerably shortened by air travel, the risks of infection have become correspondingly greater. The work of the District Nurses in overcoming the prejudices of mothers in this respect

Anthrax - Two cases of bovine anthrax were notified in February & March. Appropriate action was taken for the disposal of the carcasses. No cases occurred among the human contacts.

Tonsillitis - A sudden outbreak of tonsillitis among 13 school children in Brinton led to an investigation of the milk supply which happily proved negative.

- Fluoridation and Dental Caries -

It has regrettably been impossible for any progress to be made with the recommendation for the fluoridation of water supplies which, on the evidence now available from all over the world, would be a measure of very great value in this Area where the content of fluorine in the water is almost negligible (vide Appendix C. pages 16 & 17).

The World Health Organisation published a report made by an international Expert Committee on the subject of the fluoridation of water supplies, the findings and conclusions of which could be briefly summarised as follows:-

- " 1. Dental caries is one of the most prevalent and widespread diseases.
2. There is no hope of controlling the disease by present treatment methods alone.
3. Among the numerous preventive methods, the fluoridation of drinking water supplies is the most promising.
4. Drinking water containing 1 p.p.m. fluoride has a marked caries preventive action. Maximum benefits are conferred if such water is consumed throughout life.
5. There is no evidence that water containing this concentration of fluoride impairs the general health.
6. Controlled fluoridation of drinking water is a practicable and effective public health measure. "

One would imagine that, in the face of such conclusive and authoritative evidence, there would be no hesitation in adopting this measure in a land so severely afflicted by dental caries.

- Care of the Aged -

During the year action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act to remove to a County Home a case who was unfortunately unable to devote to herself sufficient care and attention.

The Council has made good progress in the construction of the 34 grouped dwellings for the aged on the Lea Warner Site at Fakenham and no doubt this scheme will afford great relief and satisfaction to many cases in the Fakenham area. (vide page 12).

It would however be idle to suppose that the scheme will provide a solution of the problem of the lonely aged person or that it will guarantee that the provision of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act will not have to be invoked. The majority of the aged do not want to be moved from their familiar surroundings and friends, even to a good home such as those provided by the Council. There will therefore still be much work to be done to keep these people as happy and as well cared for as possible in their own homes.

Voluntary Societies play an active and important part as auxiliaries in the care of the aged supplementing, in great measure, the services provided by the State, i.e. nursing and home helps. Much more could still be done by better co-ordination of these activities to ensure the greatest measure of home visiting and of assistance in the home. Spasmodic effort, however generous and well meant, cannot take the place of a sustained and organised service.

- Handbook of Information on Health Services -

With the co-operation and support of the County Council a useful Handbook of Information on the health services provided by the Local Health Authority has been issued for the convenience of residents in the District.

- Environmental Hygiene -

(1) Housing - I am indebted to Mr. Eagle, The Engineer Surveyor, and to Mr. Riches, the Housing Manager for the particulars contained in their respective reports on the subject of housing. The following is the Housing Manager's report:-

The Housing Situation in the District at the end of the year was as follows:-

a) Estimated number of unfit houses	215
b) Demolition orders made during the year.....	14
c) Unfit houses demolished	48
d) Houses rendered fit during the year.....	23
e) Improvement grants awarded under Housing Act 1949..	£8,141.10.0.
f) Houses completed during the year.	
1. By Council	34
2. Privately	23
g) Houses under construction at end of year.	
1. By Council.....	35
2. Privately	16
h) Number of applicants on the Waiting List	348 (380)

Analysis of Waiting List

Urgent Cases

Families living in Class 5 houses, overcrowded,	
"Medical Cases", living in Hutments	126 (114)
Families sharing accommodation	53 (77)
Engaged couples	17 (22)
	<u>196</u>

Less Urgent cases

Families living in Class 3 houses)	
Families requiring smaller accommodation)	
Families requiring accommodation near work	)	152 (167)
Families having to move from tied houses)	
		<u>348 (380)</u>

Number of applications received during 1958..... 128

Families living in hutments

Little Snoring - On requisition from Ministry	12
Owned by Council	14
Langham - Owned by Council	1
Married Quarters	13
Pudding Norton - On requisition from Ministry	61

Summary of Dwellings let during year

New dwellings let at Binham, Barney and Briston	34
Relets during year	35
Hutment families rehoused	11
Hutments let on sites retained by the Council	10
Exchanges effected	12

The Red House Children's Home at Little Snoring has been converted into two very desirable three-bedroomed dwellings.

Three families have been rehoused from Sites at Little Snoring not to be retained by the Council, during the past year, and these hutments have either been demolished or handed back to the owner of the site for other use.

The Council re-let 35 houses during the year, and 6 were allotted to families living in condemned houses or Class 5 houses, 11 to families living in hutments. 12 exchanges were effected and 10 hutments relet on sites to be retained by the Council.

The Council allotted 34 new dwellings at Binham (12), Briston (10), and Barney (12), and all these were allotted to families living in condemned houses, hutments, and aged persons.

The dwellings at Briston and Barney are completed and allotted, but not yet occupied as the weather has held up the completion of the concrete roads and paths. Difficulty is being experienced with three families allotted houses in Barney, who are not prepared to move out of their condemned houses.

Housing Programme for 1959/60
Lea-Warner Site, Fakenham.

The Council is now building 34 one-bedroomed dwellings together with a Warden's House and Communal Room, and it is hoped that when the Scheme is completed it will go some of the way towards catering for the aged persons in the Fakenham area. It is anticipated that several aged tenants at present occupying 3-bedroomed Council houses will move to these dwellings and thus release their houses for other families. Close co-operation between the Medical, Nursing and Public Health Departments will be required when these dwellings are allotted to ensure the right type of tenants are chosen.

Land should be earmarked to extend this scheme, as the 34 dwellings now being erected will not solve this problem.

A further 20 dwellings, consisting of 12 two-bedroomed bungalows, 2 two-bedroomed houses and 6 three-bedroomed houses will be built on this estate and work should commence early in 1959.

Stibbard, Wighton and Stiffkey -

The Council has also decided to build 3 bungalows at Stibbard, 6 bungalows at Wighton and 4 bungalows at Stiffkey for slum clearance purposes. These 13 bungalows should be commenced during 1959.

Future Building Programme -

There is still an urgent necessity to build further houses in Fakenham during the next few years as there are 40 pre-fabs in Lancaster Avenue, 61 hutments at Pudding Norton and a few hutments at Little Snoring to be replaced, together with the urgent cases on the Waiting List, and in order that this programme can be carried out a new building site will have to be purchased.

A small number of houses will also have to be built in the villages to rehouse families living in condemned houses, and the urgent cases on the Waiting List.

Further details on the Slum Clearance programme are shown in Mr. Eagle's report on page 21 .

(2) Water Supply - Reference has already been made on page 10 to the advisability of fluoridation of water supplies in this area where the natural fluorine content is negligible (vide Appendix C) and dental decay among young children is rife.

Important extensions of the Council water supplies have been made in the South Eastern parishes where many of the private well sources had given cause for anxiety for some time, and further extensions are planned for the South Western parishes where similar conditions obtain.

(3) Sewerage - The services provided by the Council have been augmented and very much improved by the new Fakenham and Hempton sewage works and by the extensions of sewerage services in the Walsingham area. Much still needs to be done particularly in Blakeney, a parish which is becoming increasingly popular as a holiday resort and yachting centre.

(4) Food Hygiene -

a) Ice Cream - of 22 samples of ice cream taken during the year, 21 were Grade I and 1 was Grade II.

b) Slaughter-Houses - The minimum standards prescribed for slaughter-houses under the Slaughter-House Act 1958 have been circulated to all existing licensed slaughter-house licencees.

APPENDIX A.- CLIMATIC DATA -

	Mean Daily Maximum Temp.	Mean Daily Minimum Temp.	Mean Daily Temp.	Total rainfall (inches)	Mean Relative Humidity
January	40.4 (44.9)	32.7 (37.6)	36.5 (41.3)	2.90 (1.87)	90.5 (88)
February	44.4 (45.3)	35.6 (35.3)	39.8 (40.3)	4.00 (3.12)	87.5 (89)
March	43.3 (53.6)	32.3 (41.)	37.8 (47.3)	1.22 (2.41)	84.5 (86)
April	50.4 (49.0)	38.0 (39.9)	44.2 (46.5)	1.04 (0.54)	78.5 (80)
May	60.0 (56.6)	44.4 (42.1)	52.2 (49.3)	2.93 (1.29)	77.25 (76)
June	63.2 (67.5)	48.7 (48.8)	59.5 (58.1)	2.26 (1.74)	84.3 (73)
July	67.6 (67.9)	52.8 (54.4)	60.2 (61.1)	4.00 (3.33)	83 (84)
August	68.0 (65.6)	53.3 (52.4)	60.7 (59.)	2.15 (2.39)	84.8 (83)
September	65.1 (59.8)	52.6 (48.3)	58.9 (54.1)	2.57 (4.38)	85.5 (83)
October	56.5 (56.9)	45.9 (46.5)	51.9 (51.7)	2.27 (1.47)	88.8 (87)
November	47.7 (46.6)	40.0 (40.)	43.9 (43.3)	1.62 (1.71)	93 (87)
December	43.7 (42.8)	35.6 (35.4)	38.7 (39.1)	2.98 (2.60)	94.8 (89)

Figures in brackets denote preceding year's figures.

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2. " other	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
3. Meningococcal infections	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
4. Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
5. Cancer, Stomach	5 (2)	1 (1)	6 (3)
6. " Lung	5 (3)	- (1)	5 (4)
7. " Breast.	- (-)	3 (5)	3 (5)
8. " Other forms.	14 (9)	14 (9)	28 (18)
9. Diabetes	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
10. Vascular lesions, nervous system	14 (8)	15 (10)	29 (18)
11. Coronary disease, angina	13 (16)	10 (5)	23 (21)
12. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (2)	2 (-)	3 (2)
13. Other heart disease	23 (18)	23 (17)	46 (35)
14. Other disease of the circulation	3 (4)	3 (7)	6 (10)
15. Influenza	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (3)
16. Pneumonia	6 (7)	6 (3)	12 (10)
17. Bronchitis	4 (2)	2 (5)	6 (7)
18. Other diseases of respiratory system	3 (-)	1 (-)	4 (-)
19. Ulcers, stomach and duodenum.	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
20. Gastritis and Diarrhoea.	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
21. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1 (2)	- (3)	1 (5)
22. Prostatic enlargement	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
23. Congenital malformations	1 (6)	1 (1)	2 (7)
24. Other diseases	9 (11)	9 (9)	18 (20)
25. Motor vehicle accidents	5 (4)	- (-)	5 (4)
26. All other accidents	5 (5)	1 (2)	6 (7)
27. Suicide	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
Totals	120 (107)	94 (83)	214 (190)

Over 78% of the deaths occurred in age groups above 60. There were 41 in the 80 -90 age group and 4 over 90.

* Figures in brackets relate to the previous year.

- APPENDIX C -

Sources of Samples and Dates.	(1) Houghton St. Giles Public Supply - 10.11.58.	(2) West Raynham Council House Supply - 3.11.58.
Appearance	clear	Clear
Nature of Deposit	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil
Reaction	Neutral. pH 7.1	Neutral. pH 7.1
Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Negligible trace	Negligible trace.
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02	0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.5	3.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	22	18
Oxygen absorbed	0.16	0.15
Total hardness	300	310
Temp. hardness	240	285
Metals in Solution	Iron - trace	Negligible Zinc.
Fluorine	Practically Nil	Practically nil.
Opinion	Fit	Fit

- APPENDIX C Contd -

(3) Astley Terrace Melton Constable - 3.11.58.	(4) Bore. Little Snoring Waterworks - 26.11.58.	(5) Hindolveston Council Hs. Supply - 26.11.58.	(6) 344' bore North Creak Airfield - 10.11.58.
clear	clear	opalescent.brown	opalescent slight.
Nil	Organic debris Iron compounds	Iron compounds	Nil
Nil	Slightly yellow	Pale yellow	Slightly yellow
Neutral. pH 7.3	Neutral. pH 7.1	Neutral. pH 7.3	Neutral. pH 7.1
Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Ferruginous	Satisfactory
0.01	0.03	0.35	0.03
0.02	0.03	0.06	0.02
1.0	0.5	0.5	Nil
Nil	Nil	0.003	Nil
26	22	26	20
0.2	0.16	1.1	0.48
250	280	220	290
200	255	195	270
Iron-trace	Iron-trace	Iron +	Iron- trace
Practically nil	Less than 0.05	0.2	Practically Nil
Fit	Fit for drinking	Fit for drinking	Fit for drinking

APPENDIX D.

Report on Bacteriological examination of samples of water taken during year.				
<u>Parish</u>	<u>Public Supply</u>		<u>Private Sources</u>	
	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>
Bale	-	-	-	1
Briningham	1	3	-	-
Brinton	2	-	-	-
Briston	4	5	1	-
Bunton	-	-	-	1
Fakenham	14	-	1	2
Field Dalling	-	-	1	1
Fulmodestone	-	-	1	1
Gunthorpe	1	3	2	-
Hindringham	1	-	-	1
Holkham	-	-	2	-
Melton Constable	1	1	1	-
Raynham, West	-	-	-	1
Ryburgh, Gt.	-	-	2	1
Sharrington	1	1	-	-
Snoring, Lt.	-	-	3	-
Stibbard	-	-	-	1
Stiffkey	1	-	-	-
Swanton Novers	-	-	9	4
Walsingham	1	-	-	-
Wighton	3	-	-	2
Wood Norton	-	-	1	-
Totals	30	13	24	16

PART II

THE REPORT OF

MR. A.H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.Public Health Acts

Initial Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	430
Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196
Means of Escape from Fire	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Smoke observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Housing Acts

House Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101
Revisits in connection with above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Visits re Slum Clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	425

Food and Drugs Act

Premises Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	321
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Visits to dairies and inspections of milk retailers vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	360

Sewerage

Inspections of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	433
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Contract (Sewerage) visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	205
House Drainage Reconnection Visits (Walsingham (Section 42) )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
Closet Conversion Visits (Walsingham (Section 47) )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60

District Scavenging

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	299
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140

Factories Act

Inspection of factories with power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Inspection of Factories without power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Building Byelaws Inspections

Inspections during course of construction	753
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Infectious Diseases

Cases investigated	42
Rooms Disinfected	4

Rooms DisinfectedPetroleum Acts

Installations inspected and tested	19
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Small Dwellings Acquisition Act

Valuations and visits	10
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<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act</u>	46
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Knackers' Yards

Inspections	21
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Street Naming and Numbering

Visits	44
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<u>Water Supply - Existing Mains</u>	65
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<u>Water Supply - New Contracts</u>	223
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<u>Buildings of Historic or Architectural Interest - Visits</u>	189
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Other Inspections - Not classified under the headings above but made in connection therewith

143

5,066

NOTICES SERVED.Informal Notices

Public Health and Housing Acts	109 (170)
Food and Drugs Act	27 (52)
Factories Act	3 (8)
Building Byelaws	110 (148)
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	5 (13)

Total Notices Served	254
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Formal Notices

<u>Public Health Acts</u>	
Permission to serve	15 (197)
Served	14 (197)

Total Notices Served	<u>14</u>
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HOUSING.(a) Slum Clearance

The following notes show the slum clearance situation three years after the 1955 Review:-

In 1955 the number of Class V houses to be inspected was ..	383
Number anticipated in the 23 Parishes inspected	270
Number actually inspected	260

These 260 houses were dealt with in the following way:-

Demolition Orders	86
Closing Orders	16
Undertakings not to re-let, or to repair ..	60
Up-graded	27
Adjourned (for clearance area action	20
Repairs	51
	<u>260</u>

It should be noted that of the Undertakings, 20 houses have been repaired and the Undertakings rescinded.

Inspection is still required in the following Parishes and about 123 houses are involved:-

Barsham, Blakeney, Briningham, Brinton, Sharrington, Gunthorpe, Bale, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Melton Constable, Morston, Little Ryburgh, Stibbard, Swanton Novers, Tattersett, Thurning, Wiveton and Wood Norton.

Progress should also be noted in the demolition of empty condemned houses where constant urging of owners is having its effect. In October, However, 33 condemned houses were still occupied. In connection with this point the owners of three cottages in Fulmeston were asked to take

proceedings to gain possession of their condemned dwellings, the occupiers of which had been offered Council bungalows in Barney. The tenants had refused the offer.

The following table sets out progress made under this heading:-

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	48
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Council	15
Number of houses made fit by owners as a result of formal action	8
Number of houses made fit after the service of formal notices by Council in default of owners	Nil
Undertakings given by owners not to re-let .. .	7
dwellings until repairs completed	12
Undertakings given by owners that houses will cease to be used for human habitation	14
Number of demolition orders made during the year	Nil
Number of closing orders made during the year	

(b) New Dwellings (This figure includes conversions of non-domestic buildings to give domestic accommodation)

By private persons	-	23 (16 under construction)
By Local Authority	-	34 (35 under construction)

(c) Improvement Grants

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception is as follows:-

<u>Total Amount notified to rank for grant</u>	<u>For occupation by:</u>		<u>Grant essential to preserve house and provide amenities</u>	<u>Grant to improve amenities only</u>
	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Tenant</u>		
<u>Up to December 1957</u>				
£44,325. 3. 0.	58	110	36	132
<u>January - December 1958</u>				
£8,141. 10. 0.	16	14	4	26

(d) Caravans

The Council expressed its concern in 1957 at the continued use of caravans as permanent residences. I pointed out, however, when the renewal of licences became due in April of this year, that no real improvement in the housing situation was apparent for people obliged to live in this accommodation and that the licences should be renewed. There are 25 individual caravan licences.

At Tattersett, where there are 88 caravans occupied by American servicemen, an attempt to clear up the site was only partially successful. A number of hutments and sheds were removed by the van owners to reinstate the 5-yard spacing between vans which was a condition of the licence.

The position remains an unsatisfactory one which can only be justified by military exigency.

Plans Brought Before the Plans Committee.

The following table sets out the number of plans considered by the Plans Committee during the year:-

<u>New dwellings</u>	<u>Alterations to dwellings</u>	<u>Factories</u>	<u>Domestic Garages</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
35	64	2	49	66
<u>Outline applications</u>				
11	1	2	-	5

District Scavenging

5,551 visits are made each week for the collection of refuse and nightsoil.

Alterations in refuse collection rounds fit in with the system of four tips (including a newly opened one at Swanton) were introduced successfully. The tractor/dozer continues to keep the tips levelled and there appears less nuisance from rats and flies. Oiling of nightsoil pits and tips with sump oil continues.

SEWERAGE.

(a) Fakenham and Hempton Contract - This contract (£37,000) was commenced in February and was largely completed by the end of the year. It provides a modern method of disposal by balancing tanks, sedimentation tanks, filter beds and humus tanks, all in duplicate, together with storm water tanks to deal with flows in excess of 3 DWF. There is a site pumping station which permits recirculation of the contents of the storm water tanks and pumps sludge to sludge beds. At Hall Staithe it will be possible to dispense with the hand controlled pumps by the installation of three electricity-driven self-priming centrifugal pumps.

Note: (The system came into operation on 16th February 1959)

(b) Walsingham Sewage Works - The operation of this Works has not been satisfactory during the year. Increased use of the filter beds since their first re-use in 1954 revealed serious breakdown in the media leading to anaerobic conditions where primarily aerobic conditions are demanded. Screening of the media was commenced at the end of the year.

(c) Melton Sewage Works - I presented the following Report to the Public Health Committee on 10th September 1958:

"As I have stated in a number of Annual Reports, these Works are old and appear to be overloaded. I have carried out remedial measures to the sprinklers this month but I think the Council will have to face up to expenditure should the effluent not improve within the next twelve months. Additional settlement and filtration may be required."

(d) Sewer Ditches - A ditch at Creakenoad, Sculthorpe, was piped in during the year; others received annual cleansing. Sewer ditches originally used for small discharges from farm yards and sullage water from cottages are now being severely overloaded, partly because mains water has been connected to cottages, and farms with large surfaces concreted continue to discharge surface water heavily charged with animal waste all of which finds its way to sewer ditches. This is particularly true at Briston where a Sub-Committee met to discuss one particularly difficult case. All parties in these cases claim their prescriptive rights of drainage gained over the years and are unwilling to admit that these rights do not include that of causing public nuisance !

(c) General - Two reinforced concrete ventilating columns were erected in Fakenham to replace defective steel columns. A length of private sewer at North Drive, Fakenham, was vested in the Council. Three new manholes were constructed on the Field Dalling Sewerage system.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE, WASINGHAM.

Long projected, this public amenity materialised during the year and is a well camouflaged building behind a castellated wall in the High Street. Inside are well designed, well lighted rooms with very modern wall surfaces, wash-hand basins, liquid soap and paper towels.

The conveniences at Blakeney and Fakenham were maintained during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

In this District two ratcatchers are employed and working village by village they treated 1,380 domestic and 216 other premises last year, having made 5,750 inspections of property to decide which needed treatment. At the same time refuse tips received three treatments yearly and sewers twice yearly treatment.

Charges amounting to £59.13.9d. were made for treatments to 114 business premises.

FOOD.

(a) Food preparing premises -

The figures given below show one less bakehouse functioning and this reflects the apparent disappearance of this village service in the face of competition from factory produced bread.

Two fishfrying premises were in trouble during the year and in one case legal proceedings were threatened after which the premises were closed. In the other case extensive alterations and improvements were carried out.

Market stallholders were required to keep foodstuffs at least 18" from the ground.

Bakehouses	5	Fish Shops	10
Butcher's Shops	12	Market Stalls	10
Catering Establishments	13	Provision Stores	44

Eighty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. With the exception of one, the ice-cream sold is of the three well-known proprietary brands and is wrapped. Twenty-seven samples of ice-cream were taken, twenty-four being classified as Grade I and three as Grade II, both being acceptable classifications.

(b) Milk

There has been no change in the number or designation of the registered distributors of milk in the District.

Thirty-six samples were taken by the County Council Officers. None failed the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment or the methylene blue or cleanliness test. Seven samples were void in respect of one or other of the tests.

(c) Meat InspectionCarcases Inspected and Condemned - For the year ended 1958.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Slaughtered	393	25	693	624
Number Inspected	393 (365)	25 (17)	693 (655)	624 (551)

All Diseases except Tuberculosis
and Cysticercosis -

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46 (54)	1 (-)	20 (8)	30 (23)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	11.7%	4%	2.9%	4.8%

Tuberculosis Only -

Whole Carcasses condemned	7 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24 (9)	- (1)	- (-)	12 (7)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.1%	-	-	2.1%

Cysticercosis -

Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	6 (6)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6 (6)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Generalised and totally condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

FACTORIES. =

(a) <u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. Inspected</u>	<u>No. in which defects were found.</u>	<u>No. in which defects were remedied by</u> <u>Informal Notice.</u>	<u>Formal Notice</u>
93	32	4	3	Nil

= The report of the Medical Officer of Health has been submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

(b) Means of Escape from Fire -

Six certificates on adequacy of means of escape from fire were issued in respect of premises in the District.

WATER SUPPLIESSouth Eastern Parishes Contract

This contract for £39,371 was commenced in January and completed by August of the year under review. A major alteration was the increase from 7-inch to 8-inch of the main from Gunthorpe to Melton Constable at a cost of £1,400. In the event the immediate necessity for this increase, which was the possible demand by the British Transport Commission at Melton Constable, did not materialise, the projected closing of the M. & G.N. Joint Railway Line stopping any further development.

"Tyton" pipes were used on all 3-inch and 4-inch work and the Council was probably one of the first water authorities in the country to use this new and very simple form of rubber joint.

The contract works were inspected by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during their progress.

Swanton Novers -

An extension from the 8-inch main at Briningham to serve Swanton Novers, involving a Booster Station on the 4-inch main was authorised and added to Messrs. Ames Limited South-eastern parishes contract and work had commenced by the end of the year.

Connections to Mains -

102 domestic supplies were connected and 16 metered supplies. The effect of connections to the South-Eastern mains had not been felt by the end of the year.

Extensions to Mains -

Extensions were carried out at Edgar Farm, Great Walsingham, and at Langham.

750 feet of 4-inch castiron main was recovered from Little Snoring Airfield.

Fakenham Waterworks -

After my further representation on pumping conditions at this works the Council authorised me to obtain estimates for the installation of a submersible pump. Directions were given for the inclusion of this work in the forthcoming South-Western Parishes contract.

Kettlestone -

I prepared plans and an estimate (£3,300) for the laying of mains in this village from the existing Little Snoring water mains. It was decided to include this work in the projected Central Parishes water mains contract.

Blizzard, 25th February 1958 - Effect on Public Water Supply -

An emergency plan designed to cope with any power failure was brought into operation at mid-day on February 25th, Fakenham being supplied by its own Waterworks. Power having been cut at Houghton it was decided to retain water in the Gunthorpe Reservoir for the Coastal Parishes leg, i.e., Gunthorpe to Blakeney, and on February 26th I was ready to use Snoring to guarantee supplies to the Walsinghams, Snoring and the Barsham Area. The operation of this was not necessary, however, as power was restored at mid-day on February 26th. In an extreme emergency the village pumps

at Field Dalling and Blakeney would have been brought into operation for a limited supply. Fakenham was operated on one pump only, the other being dismantled.

I consider that these arrangements were satisfactory even with the added difficulties of reaching each control point and headworks.

Staff -

I have been aided in the Regional Mains Contracts by Mr. D.G. Shirley who has acted as Clerk of Works since March 1958.

The Maintenance Fitter/Plumber and the Turncocks' appointments have both been filled by new employees this year.

Pumping Statistics -

Month	Houghton Pumping Station to Gunthorpe Reservoir		Gunthorpe Reservoir to Fakenham Tower	
	Total gallons.	Daily Average gallons.	Total gallons	Daily average gallons
January	7,992,000	257,806	3,542,000	114,258
February	7,138,000	254,928	3,176,000	113,428
March	8,082,000	260,709	3,541,000	114,225
April	8,164,000	272,133	3,560,000	118,666
May	9,425,000	304,032	3,746,000	120,838
June	9,096,000	303,200	3,695,000	123,166
July	9,199,000	296,741	3,794,000	122,387
August	9,752,000	314,580	3,759,000	121,258
September	9,041,000	301,366	3,593,000	119,766
October	9,407,000	303,451	3,754,000	121,096
November	8,587,000	286,233	3,695,000	123,000
December	8,511,000	274,548	3,756,000	121,161

A.H. EAGLE,

Engineer and Surveyor

Senior Public Health Inspector.

